

*****PRESS



RELEASE*****

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Department of Planning and Natural Resources

Division of Environmental Protection

Public Advisory

The Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) announces that, as a result of the recent rains throughout the Territory, the Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) anticipates negative environmental impacts caused by stormwater runoff. DPNR advises the public to refrain from using the waters throughout the Territory until these effects subside. DPNR is also advising parents to instruct their children to keep away from stormwater-impacted beaches as well as areas with manholes and stormwater flooding. There may be an elevated health risk to anyone swimming in stormwater-impacted areas as a result of increased concentrations of bacteria. All persons should also be aware that stormwater runoff may also contain contaminants or pollutants harmful to human health and therefore all persons should avoid areas of stormwater runoff (i.e. guts, puddles, and drainage basins). DPNR will continue to monitor the impacted areas and waters. For additional information regarding water quality call the Division of Environmental Protection at 773-1082 in St. Croix or 774-3320 in St. Thomas.